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RADC-TR-85-106
Final Technical Report
July 1986

HIGH PERFORMANCE CRYSTAL OSCILLATOR DEVELOPMENT

Frequency Electronics, Inc.

John Ho Yacine Houari



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23 06	Oven Control		erce Oscilla	tor Hybri	<u>d</u>
This contract calls for design	, development, fa	abrication a	nd test of a	fast war	m-up crystal
oscillator operating at 5 MHz	and 10 MHz. Tes	t results of	earlier mod	er osciil	ators
indicated that further reducti	ons of inner over	n and oscill	ator assembl	y mass wa	s requirea. ked on. In
In addition, an approved methor order to reduce mass, redesign	of the electron	ic circuitry	crystal blan from discre	k was wor te circui	ts to IC and
Hybrid designs was accomplished	ed. Four hybridi	zed circuits	were design	ed, fabri	cated and
tested: RF Amplifier Hybrid,	Colpitts Oscilla	tor Hybrid.	Oven Control	Hybrid,	Pierce
Oscillator Hybrid.	-t	,		- •	
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Two different oscillators, each	ch with SC-cut cr	ystals were	designed, bu	illt and t	ested, using
RF Amplifier Hybrids, Colpitts results were achieved in short	s uscillator hybr	rus, and ove tahilito 12	w nower "o"	sensitiv	ity, as well
as reduced volume and weight.	The Pierce osci	llator was a	lso a hybrid	lized desi	gn,
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containing a 5 MHz, 5th overtone crystal. Preliminary test results were also satisfactory.



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1. OBJECTIVE.

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The objective of these research activities is to design, develop, fabricate and test an operational preproduction oscillator utilizing a double rotated quartz crystal resonator. Goals for the oscillator require the development of components which will minimize oscillator power consumption via solid state electronic temperature control, ruggedized titanium Dewar enclosure, and thermal isolation material. Electronic components and oscillator circuitry will be optimized to provide maximum stability and spectral purity and at the same time minimize sensitivity to shock, vibration and acceleration.

2. CONTRACT SPECIFICATION GOALS.

1.	Stabilization time @ 25°C	±5x10 ⁻⁹ of final value after 2 minutes of turn-on
2.	Short term stability	9x10 ⁻¹³ in-between 1 and 100 sec averaging time
3.	Ageing rate/day	1x10 ⁻¹⁰ after one-day of warm-up
4.	Continuous operating power	0.6 watt (-40 to +90°C)
5.	Warm-up power	10 watt
6.	Temperature stability	2x10 ⁻¹⁰ (-10 to +50°C)
7.	Load stability	2x10-11 for 10% load change
8.	Voltage stability	2x10-11 for 5% voltage change
9.	Acceleration sensitivity	$1x10^{-10}/g$ along any axis
10.	Vibration sensitivity	1x10 ⁻¹⁰ /g without vibration isolators
11.	Shock stability	1x10 ⁻¹⁰ after 50g, 11 msec

3. SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD.

This is a summary of the results presented in the interim test report No. RADC-TR-82-191 (July 1982):

Oscillator Models FE-2188B and FE-2173A were developed during the previous reporting period. FE-2188B is a discrete oscillator with a 5 MHz, 5th overtone, SC bi-convex, 3 point mount crystal in a "C" holder and is insulated in a pyrex flask.
FE-2173A is a discrete oscillator with a 10.05+ MHz, 3rd overtone, SC bi-convex, 3 point mount crystal in a TO-8 holder and foam insulated. Table I shows a comparison of the contract specification goals and the parametric performance of the two oscillator designs incorporating low 'g' sensitivity SC crystal resonators. The following paragraphs are the technical considerations as they relate to the performance differences between the two oscillator configurations.

3.1 Stabilization - Warm-up.

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The 5 MHz oscillator (FE-2188B) showed the input power for the initial 3 minutes of warm-up to be 20 watts. After booster heater cutoff, the input power was reduced to under 2.0 watts in less than 5 minutes.

The frequency stabilized to within 2×10^{-7} in 5 minutes and 2×10^{-9} in 7 minutes. These results are dramatic improvements over the previous AT cut oscillators with typical warm-up period of 30 minutes to 2 hours to obtain the same stability.

TABLE I - TEST DATA SUMMARY (PREVIOUS REPORT PERIOD)

	SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENT	. PE-2188B OSCILLATOR	FE-2173A OSCILLATOR
ITEM	5/10 MHz	5 MHz - 5th OVERTONE, C HOLDER SC BI-CONVEX 3 POINT MOUNT	10.05+ MHz - 3rd OVERTONE SC TO-8, 3 POINT MOUNT
STABILIZATION TIME AT 25°C	5 x 10 ⁻⁹ OF FINAL VALUE AFTER 2 MINUTES TURN-ON	5 MINUTES: 2 x 10 ⁻⁷ 7 MINUTES: 2 x 10 ⁻⁹	2 MINUTES: <2 x 10 ⁻⁷ 5 MINUTES: <2 x 10 ⁻⁹
SHORT TERM STABILITY	9 x 10 ⁻¹³ AVERAGE FROM 1 TO 100 SECONDS	1 SECOND: 1.5 x 10-12	1 SECOND 5 x 10-71
AGING RATE PER DAY	1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ AFTER ONE DAY OF WARM-UP	* AFTER 4 DAYS WARM-UP 5 x 10 ⁻¹¹ /DAY AVG OVER NEXT 10 DAYS	* Apter 15 ₀ days warm-up 5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /day
PEAK WARM-UP POWER	10 WATTS	20 WATTS	18 WATTS
CONTINOUS OPERATING POWER @ 25°C	0.6 WATTS	2 WATTS APTER 5 MINUTES	2 WATTS AFTER 5 MINUTES
TEMPERATURE STABILITY (-10°C TO +50°C)	2 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	<2 X 10 ⁻¹⁰ Pyrex plask	<2 X 10 ⁻⁹ FOAM INSULATION
PHASE NOISE (1Hz BW)	10 Hz: -130 dB -124 dB 100 Hz: -155 dB -149 dB 10 kHz: -164 dB -159 dB	10 Hz: -132 dB 100 Hz: -143 dB 1 kHz: -154 dB	10 Hz: -115 dB 100 Hz: -122 dB 1 kHz: -138 dB
"9" SENSITIVITY	$1 \times 10^{-10}/9$	$< 3 \times 10^{-10}/g$ IN WORST AXIS	$<5 \times 10^{-10}/9$ IN WORST AXIS
WEIGHT	5 02.	14.8 02.	13 02.
VOLUME	10 IN ³	20 IN ³	20,68 IN ³

^{*} NOTE: AGING CHARACTERISTICS DIFFER FOR EACH CRYSTAL.

For the 10 MHz oscillator (FE-2173A), the warm-up time was under 2 minutes to reach 1 x 10^{-7} , and less than 5 minutes to stabilize to 1 x 10^{-9} .

The difference in warmup time between the 5 MHz (PE-2188B) and the 10 MHz oscillator (FE-2173A) can be mainly attributed to the physical package. The 5 MHz oscillator used a 5th overtone crystal in a "C" size crystal holder and the size of the inner oven package was almost three times that of the 10 MHz oscillator, which uses a TO-8 crystal holder. The heater hybrid delivers a constant power input which results in a longer warmup time for the FE-2188B. It was obvious, therefore, that the 5 MHz oscillator (FE-2188B) inner oven assembly, and thermal path to the crystal, must be reduced in order to improve the warm-up time.

3.2 Aging - Long Term Stability.

The long term stability results of one 5 MHz oscillator (FE-2188B) was encouraging. After a 4 day warm-up period, the aging rate over the next 10 days was 5 x 10^{-11} /day and reduced to 5 x 10^{-12} /day over another 15 days. The long term stability of the second 5 MHz oscillator was considerably poorer than the first. After the 4 days of warm-up, the aging rate was 4 x 10^{-10} /day. After 15 days of operation, the aging rate was reduced to 2 x 10^{-10} /day. These results indicated that further enhancements of the design and fabrication processes associated with the SC-cut crystals were necessary to achieve consistently good aging results. Presently manufactured SC-cut, high bakeout, 5th overtone resonators achieve aging rates of $1-2 \times 10^{-11}$ /day after 4 days stabilization.

The long term stability of the 10 MHz oscillator (FE-2173A) was 5 x 10^{-10} /day after a warm-up of 15 days. Presently manufactured SC-cut 10 MHz, 3rd overtone resonators achieve 5 - 8 x 10^{-11} /day after 15 days.

3.3 Temperature Stability.

Frequency stability over the temperature range of -10° C to $+50^{\circ}$ C, for both 5 MHz oscillators (FE-2188B) was about 2 x 10^{-10} . For the two 10 MHz oscillators (FE-2173A) the frequency stability over the same temperature range was 2 x 10^{-9} and 2.2 x 10^{-9} .

3.4 "g" Sensitivity.

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FEI obtained reasonable yields in low "g" sensitivity SC-cut crystals. For the two 5 MHz oscillators (FE-2188B) tested, the sensitivities were approximately 4 x $10^{-10}/g$ and 3 x $10^{-10}/g$. This compared to a typical AT-cut crystal sensitivity of 1-2 x $10^{-9}/g$, indicating a significant improvement. The "g" sensitivity results for two 10 MHz oscillators (FE-2173A) were 5 x $10^{-10}/g$ and 5 x $10^{-10}/g$.

Comparison of the "g" sensitivity results showed the 5 MHz oscillator to be better than the 10 MHz oscillator by about a factor of two. This can be understood by relating back to the basic crystal design and fabrication process particularly in the area of the crystal support structure. Better integrity can be achieved in the crystal support structure with the lower frequency (5 MHz) device.

3.5 Phase Noise.

A comparison of the phase noise characteristics of the 5 MHz and 10 MHz oscillators are as follows:

	S/N RATIO	(1 Hz BW)
OFFSET FREQUENCY FROM CARRIER	5 MHz	10 MHz
10 Hz	-132 dB	-115 dB
100 Hz	-143 dB	-122 dB
1 kHz	-154 dB	-138 dB

The 5 MHz unit has a crystal filter on the output and will meet the specification goals for phase noise when the filter is optimized. The 10 MHz unit had no crystal filter. The 10 MHz unit would also meet the phase noise specification with the addition of optimized crystal filter.

4. COMPONENT DESIGN.

The following sections represent the activities since the previous reporting period. Component design representing an essential effort in accomplishing the objectives of lower power consumption, volume reduction, weight reduction, and all other parametric goals called out in the contract specification goals.

- 1. Four hybridized circuits were designed, fabricated and tested:
 - a) RF Amplifier Hybrid (C91240T9012)
 - b) Colpitts Oscillator Hybrid (C91220T9013)
 - c) Pierce Oscillator Hybrid (C91380T50020)
 - d) Oven control Hybrid (C91001T9011)

4.1 RF Amplifier Hybrid.

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This circuit is repeated in every oscillator design. Figure 1 shows RF Amplifier Hybrid package. The dimensions of this unit are 1/2" by 1/2". The most advantageous feature of this unit is its signal isolation between the oscillator and the delivered power.

Specifications for this unit are:

- a) Allowable frequencies include 5 MHz, 5.115 MHz, 10 MHz, and 10.23 MHz.
 - b) The power supply voltage range is 10V to 20V.
- c) The current is 2 mA to 10 mA, settable by internal resistors (shorting outside pins).
 - d) RF Power Input is 0 dBm, $^{+3}_{-0}$ dB.
- e) RF Power Output is settable 7 dBm to 13 dBm. RF power is adjustable by shorting internal resistors to ground through pins which extend outside the package. Shorting of pins enables the reduction or increase of amplifier gain.
 - f) Minimum harmonics is 40 dB.
 - g) VSWR = both input and output to be 1.2:1.

4.2 Colpitts Oscillator Hybrid.

The Colpitts Oscillator Hybrid package is shown in Outline Drawing C91225T9013 (Figure 2). This is a unique oscillator circuit which has the feature of accepting SC-cut crystals. The SC-cut crystal has 2 operating modes adjacent to each other, with 8-10% frequency differential. Only the "C" mode is desired; therefore unique circuits in the hybrid assure that the "B" mode is suppressed. The hybrid circuit also provides VCO capabilities (electronic frequency control).

4.3 Pierce Oscillator Hybrid.

The 5 MHz crystal will not work well in the Colpitts configuration as the input capacitance limits the performance of that crystal. The short and long term stabilities prove unsatisfactory and temperature coefficient is poor. The Pierce design is more suitable and has been developed to achieve these factors as desired.

The Pierce Oscillator Hybrid Package is shown in drawing C91380T50020 (Figure 3). It is a hybrid circuit design for an SC-cut crystal, 5 MHz or 5.115 MHz. It has tuning selection for the "C" mode only. The unit contains built in electronic tuning, an AGC network to control the crystal drive current and a reference zener voltage to stabilize the internal voltage.

The hybrid assembly consists of 20 resistors, 9 capacitors, 4 diodes, 4 transistors, 2 coils - all reduced to a package size of 0.80 in³. For comparison purposes, the Pierce Oscillator breadboard is shown in Figure 4.

4.4 Oven Control Hybrid.

This design is shown in drawing C91000T9011 (Figure 5). It contains a single sensor for heat control, with a single feedback loop. The control system is capable of controlling two heater elements; one for normal heat control, the other for associated warm-up (booster heater). The unit is designed to use 50K or 100K thermistors and is capable of driver heater power from 1 watt to 20 watts. The hybrid circuit contains its own reference voltage and feedback elements can be selected externally.

Physically, it is a 12-pin flatpack design measuring 3/8" by 1/2". The oven control circuit board is shown in Figure 6 with the hybrid installed.

OSCILLATOR DESIGN.

5.1 Model FE-2185.

This oscillator is the first hybridized oscillator built. It consists of five major building blocks. They are three hybrid circuits, one heater ceramic substrate and one 10 MHz, SC-cut, 3rd overtone, TO-8 size crystal. The hybrid circuits are Colpitts oscillator circuit, buffer amplifier and proportional oven heater control circuit. This development resulted in a reduced volume of 3.5 cubic inches. The package shown in Figure 7 shows the vertical mounting with interface connector and mounting studs on the 1.2 inch by 1.2 inch surface. The oscillator performance test results are shown in Table II and Figures 8, 9, 10 and 11. Fast warmup with low peak input power, stability after warmup and temperature coefficient are achieved in this design relative to the previous FE-2188B and the FE-2173A. For better thermal stability and improved temperature coefficient, the Model FE-2211A was designed.

5.2 Model FE-2211A.

This new model, FE-2211A, basically has the same building blocks as Model FE-2185, except the heater ceramic substrate was redesigned for both control heater and booster heater with their drive transistors and feedback resistor integrated on one ceramic substrate. This further reduces the interwiring between heaters and driver transistors to minimize the thermal loss. In addition

TABLE II - TEST DATA SUMMARY - CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD (4/82 TO 1/85)

	SPECIPICATION	PE-2185	FE-2211A OSCILLATOR
Mali	REQUIREMENT 10 MHz	2,	10 MHz, 3rd OVERTONE,
		POINT MO	10-01 10-01 100
STABILIZATION TIME AT 25°C	5 x 10 ⁻⁹ OF FINAL VALUE AFTER 2 MINUTES TURN-ON	2 MINUTES: 8 x 10-8 4 MINUTES: 1 x 10-8 5 1/2 MINUTES: 5 x 10-9	2 MINUTES: 1 x 10-8 5 MINUTES: 1 x 10-9 DOUBLE OVEN
SHORT TERM STABILITY	9 x 10 ⁻¹³ AVERAGE FROM 1 TO 100 SECONDS	1 SECOND: 3 x 10 ⁻¹²	10 SECONDS: 3 x 10-12
AGING RATE PER DAY	1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ AFTER ONE DAY OF WARM-UP	+ 1 DAY: 8 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /DAY 40 DAYS: 1.4 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /DAY	1 DAY: 4 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /DAY 40 DAYS: 2.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /DAY
PEAR WARMUP POWER	10 WATTS	2 UNITS TESTED: 1ST UNIT 8 WATTS 2ND UNIT 2 WATTS	SINGLE OVEN: 17.5 WATTS DOUBLE OVEN: 22.4 WATTS
CONTINUOUS OPERATING POWER @ 25°C	0.6 WATTS	2 UNITS TESTED: 1ST UNIT: 0.98 WATTS 2ND UNIT: 0.89 WATTS	BOTH UNITS: 1.9 WATTS
TEMPERATURE STABILITY	2 x 10-10 (-10°C TO +50°C)	(BETWEEN -10°C TO +60°C) 2.5 x 10-8 POAM INSULATION	(BETWEEN -10°C TO +60°C) SINGLE OVEN: 1 x 10-8 DOUBLE OVEN: 4 x 10-9 FOAM INSULATION
PHASE NOISE (1 Hz BW)	10 Hz: -130 dB 100 Hz: -155 dB 10 kHz: -164 dB	10 Hz: -122 dB 100 Hz: -132 dB 1 kHz: -143 dB 10 kHz: -158 dB	10 Hz: -122 dB 100 Hz: -132 dB 1 kHz: -143 dB 10 kHz: -158 dB
"9" SENSITIVITY	1 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /9	$< 1 \times 10^{-10}/9$ IN BEST AXIS $< 4 \times 10^{-10}/9$ IN WORST AXIS	<pre><1 x 10⁻¹⁰/9 IN BEST AXIS <4 x 10⁻¹⁰/9 IN WORST AXIS</pre>
WEIGHT	5 oz.	4.5 Oz.	3.85 02.
VOLUME	10 IN ³	3.5 IN ³	4.20 IN ³
		Jamping	

* NOTE: AGING CHARACTERISTICS DIFFER FOR EACH CRYSTAL.

to this improvement, an outer oven assembly has been incorporated to improve the frequency stability over wide operating temperatures. The mechanical package (Figure 12) has been designed with mounting surface on the 1 inch by 4 inch side (horizontal mounting) for better thermal balance at high ambient temperatures. Two versions of this model were tested, one with added outer oven assembly and the other without the additional outer oven assembly. This test data is shown in Table II and Figures 8, 11, 15 and 13 through 22.

Table III shows the design gains made for the current report and the previous reporting period.

5.3 Pierce Base Oscillator Development.

For 5 MHz, 5th Overtone, SC-Cut, C-Size Holder crystal, a new Pierce hybrid circuit has been designed but not yet incorporated into a completed oven oscillator assembly for testing. This newly developed hybridized 5 MHz oscillator will have fast warmup characteristics as Model FE-2211 with better short term and long term stability. The output phase noise is expected to be excellent.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE INVESTIGATION.

6.1 Improvement in "g" Sensitivity of Crystals.

The mounting structure can be improved with possible increases in diameter to achieve "g" sensitivity of 1 x $10^{-10}/g$.

TABLE III - FE-2173A - FE-2211A COMPARISON

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It should be noted that all comparisons of oscillator characteristics from this reporting period to the previous reporting period should take into account the 5 to 1 reduction in size and 3 to 1 reduction in weight.

	PREVIOUS REPORT PE-2173A OSCILLATOR	CURRENT REPORT FE-2211A OSCILLATOR	DELTA
ITEM	10.05+ MHz - 3rd OVERTONE SC TO-8, 3 POINT MOUNT	10 MHz, 3rd OVERTONE, SC CUT, TO-8, 3 POINT MOUNT	
VOLUME	20.68 IN ³	4.20 IN ³	5:1
WEIGHT	13 OZ.	3.85 OZ.	3.4:1
g SENSITIVITY	$<5 \times 10^{-10}/g$ IN WORST AXIS	(1×10^{-10}) IN BEST AXIS (4×10^{-10}) IN WORST AXIS	1.75:1
PHASE NOISE	10 Hz: -115 dB 100 Hz: -122 dB 1 kHz: -138 dB	10 Hz: -122 dB 100 Hz: -132 dB 1 kHz: -143 dB 10 kHz: -158 dB	1.06:1
TEMPERATURE STABILITY (-10°C TO +50°C)	<2 x 10 ⁻⁹ FOAM INSULATION	(BETWEEN -10°C TO +60°C) SINGLE OVEN: 1 x 10 ⁻⁸ DOUBLE OVEN: 4 x 10 ⁻⁹ FOAM INSULATION	1:2
CONTINOUS OPERATING POWER @ 25°C	2 WATTS AFTER 5 MINUTES	BOTH UNITS: 1.9 WATTS	1.05:1
PEAK WARM-UP POWER	18 WATTS	SINGLE OVEN: 17.5 WATTS DOUBLE OVEN: 22.4 WATTS	1:1.24
AGING RATE PER DAY	APTER 15 DAYS WARM-UP 5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /DAY	1 DAY: 4 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /DAY 40 DAYS: 2.5 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ /DAY	
SHORT TERM STABILITY	1 SECOND (5 x 10 ⁻¹¹)	10 SECONDS: 3 x 10 ⁻¹²	
STABILIZATION TIME AT 25°C	2 MINUTES: <2 x 10 ⁻⁷ 5 MINUTES: <2 x 10 ⁻⁹	2 MINUTES: 1 x 10 ⁻⁸ 5 MINUTES: 1 x 10 ⁻⁹ DOUBLE OVEN	2:1

6.2 Titanium Dewar.

Although the machined titanium Dewar has significant improvement in power, temperature coefficient and orientation, the manufacturing techniques presently utilized make it very expensive. Research is necessary to establish the method of making the titanium Dewar to obtain improved performance and at the same time significantly reduce the manufacturing costs.

6.3 DC Regulation.

To reduce circuit noise and save power, a hybrid power regulator needs to be developed. The present monolithic regulators are inefficient and exceptionally noisy. FEI has investigated disc component regulators but there will be a need to hybridize it in order to save volume.

6.4 Warm-Up Improvement.

Improved thermal coupling between the heater and crystal unit needs to be investigated. A possible approach is to print the heater as part of the base of the TO-8 package to both reduce size and improve thermal coupling.

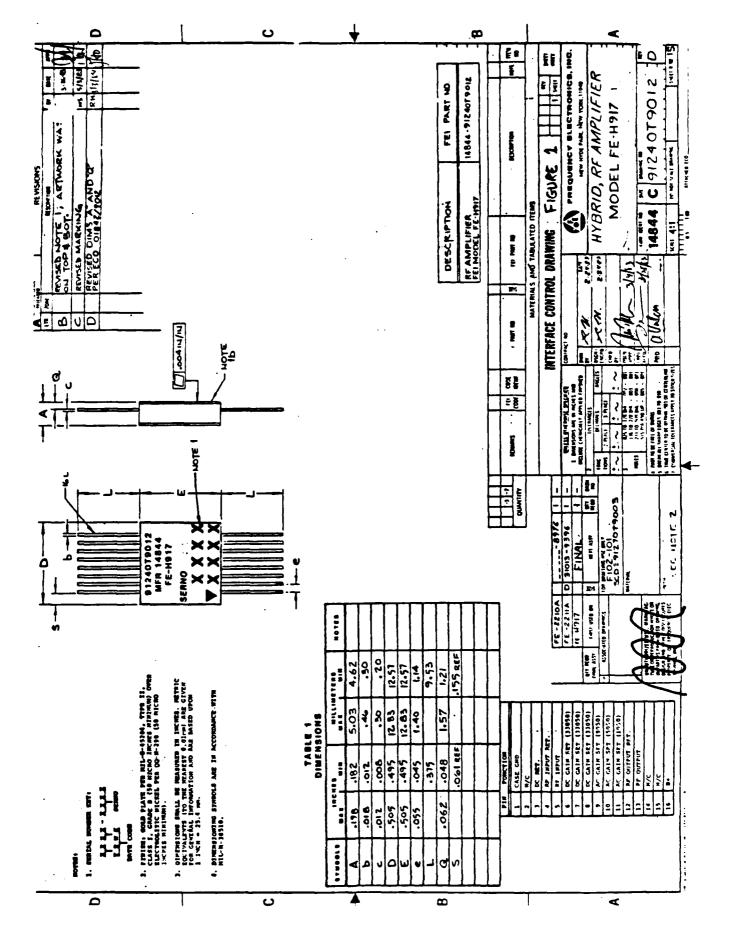
6.5 Oscillator Circuitry.

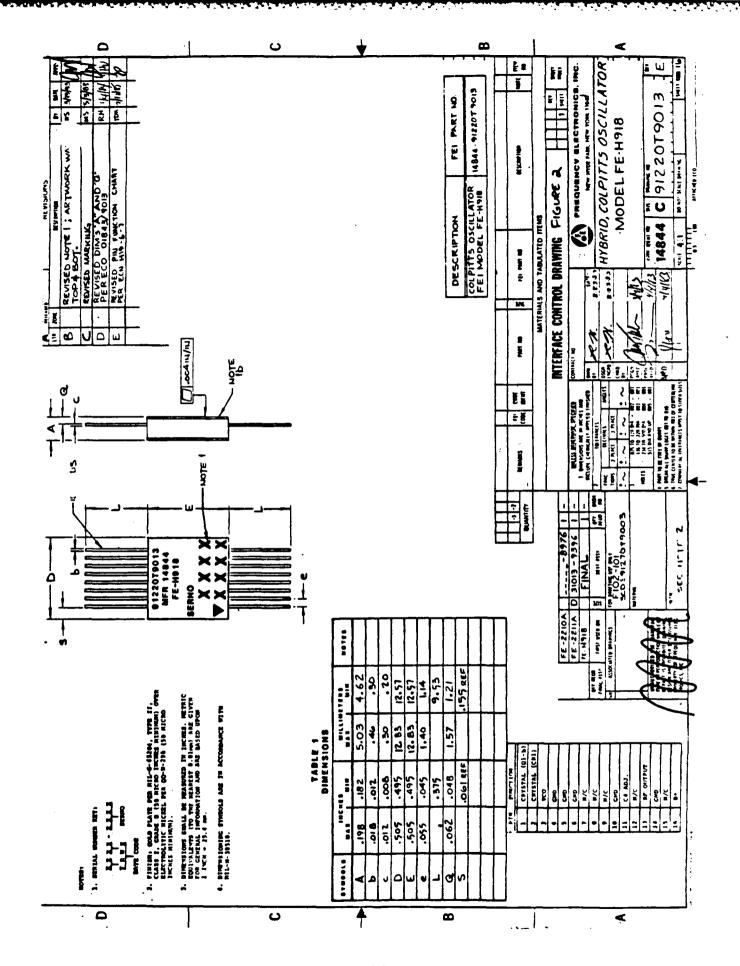
The Colpitts Oscillator has the least component recognized limitation of that oscillator due to the input capacitance to the base emitter junction. To obtain the optimum in noise and short-term stability, the Pierce will need to be adopted for the 10 MHz.

6.6 Single Hybrid Development.

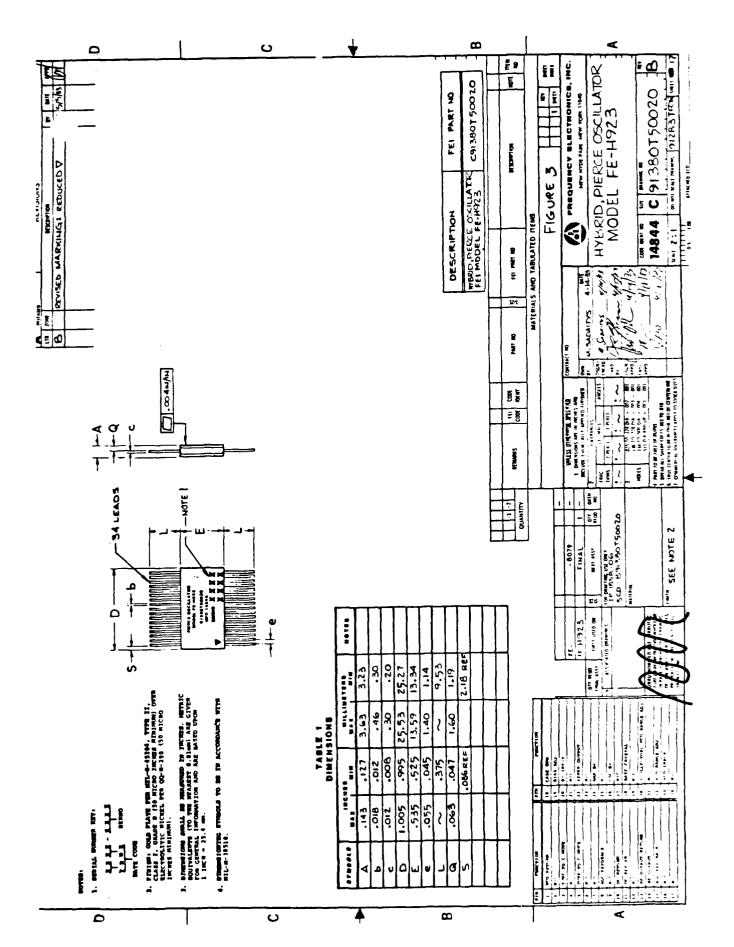
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Investigate the possibility of combining all three hybrids (output amplifier, oven control and oscillator) into one module in order to save space and decrease manufacturing costs.





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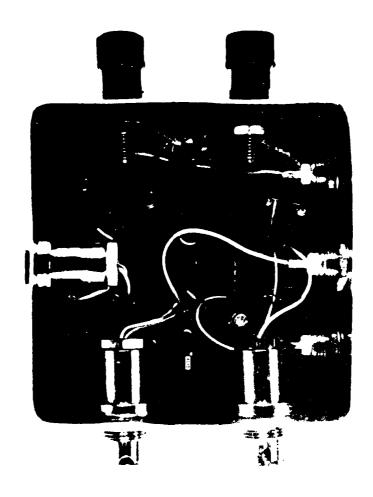
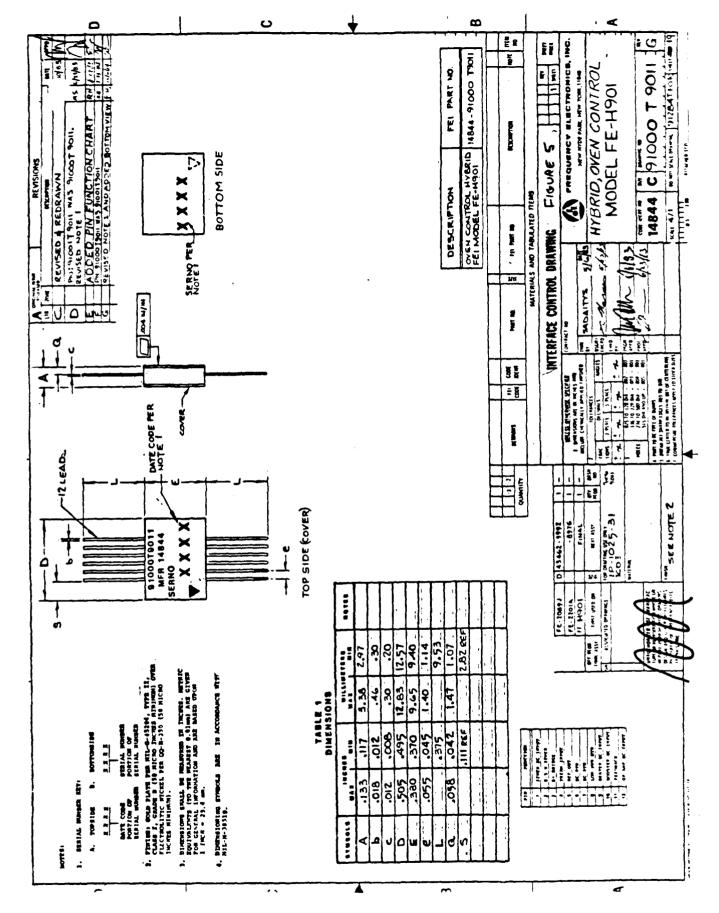


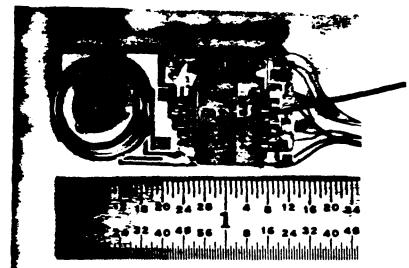
FIGURE 4
PIERCE OSCILLATOR BREADBOARD



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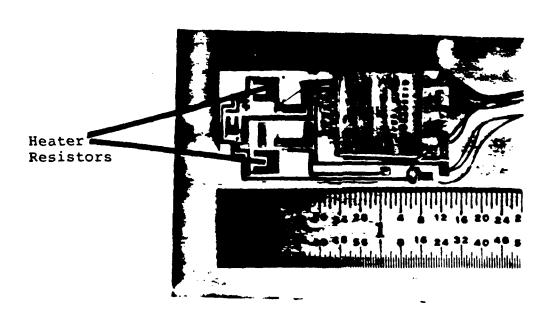
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Oven Control Hybrid

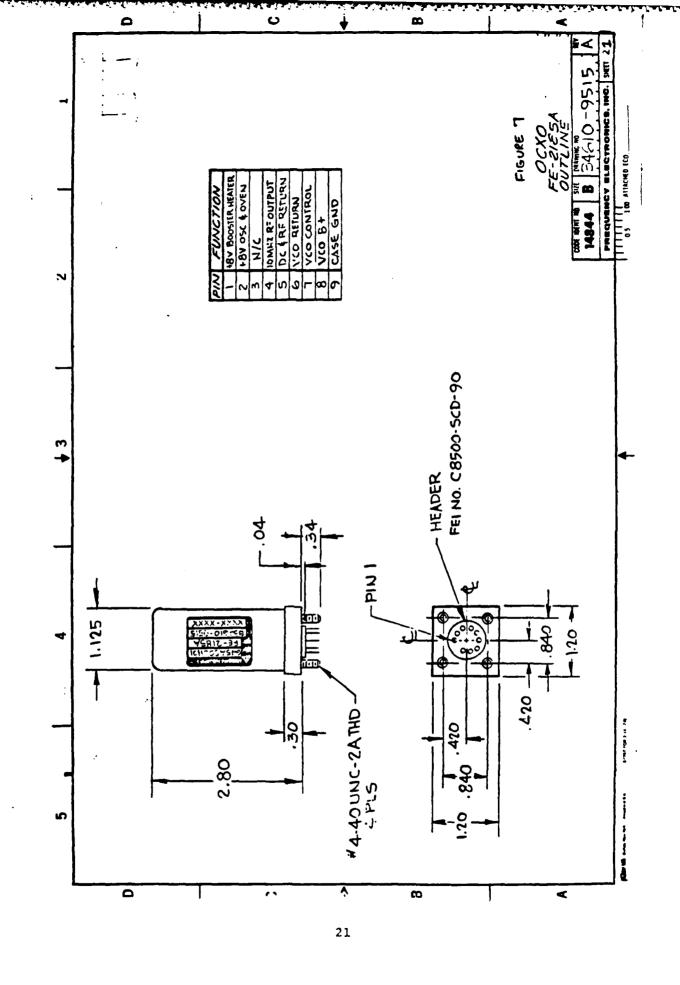
Top View



Bottom View

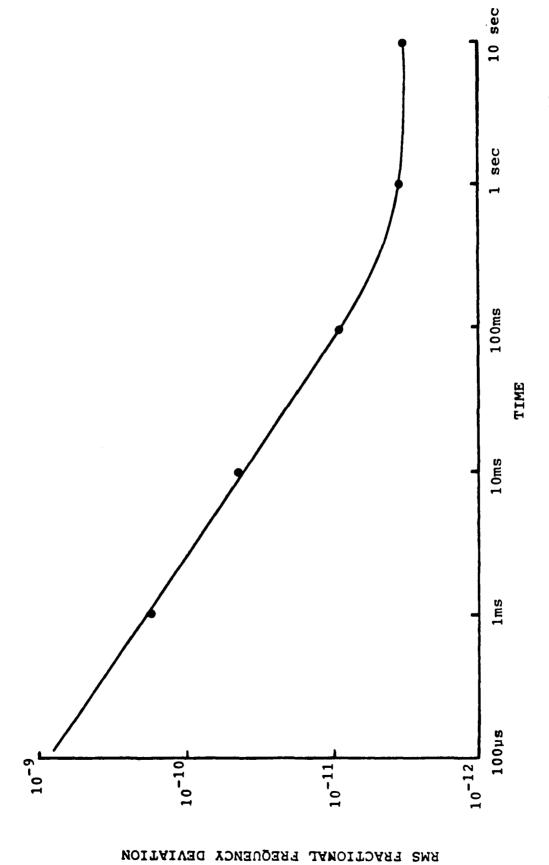
FIGURE 6

OSCILLATOR PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD ASSEMBLY



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SHORT TERM STABILITY MODEL FE-2185A & MODEL FE-2211A FIGURE 8

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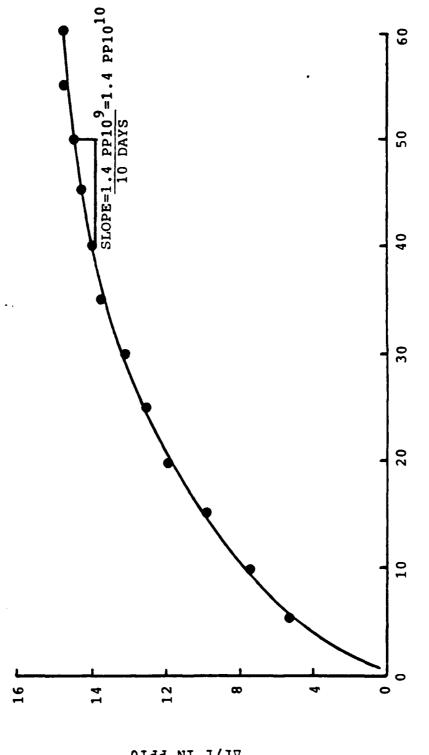


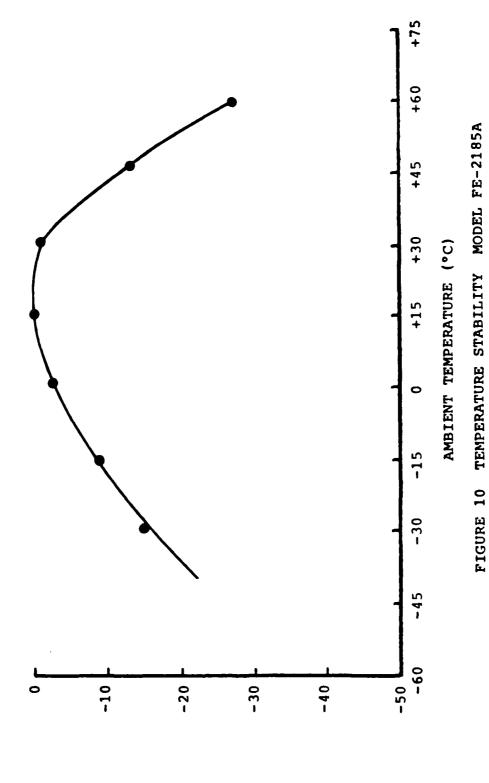
FIGURE 9 AGING RATE MODEL FE-2185A

LONG TERM STABILITY (DAYS)

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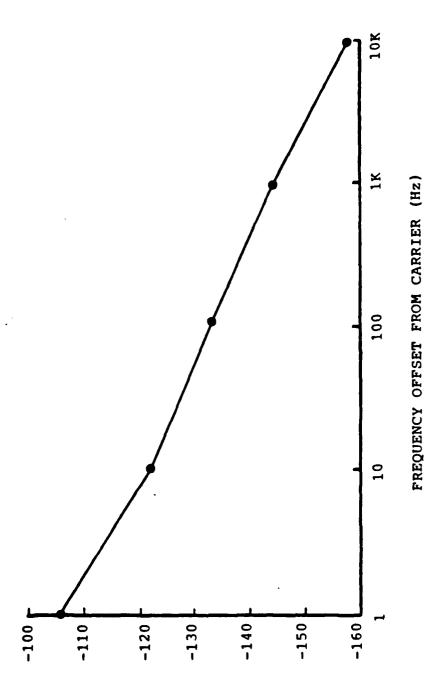
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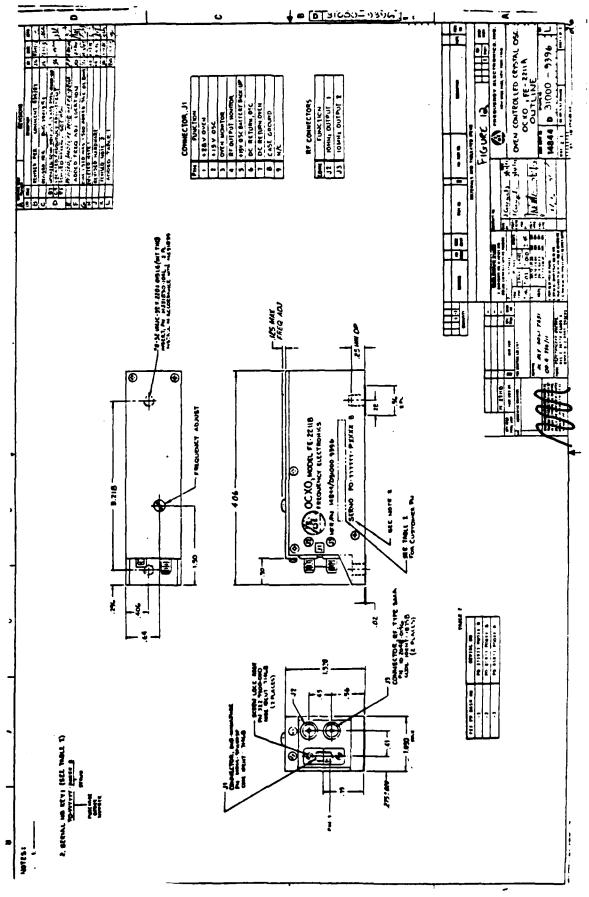


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SINGLE SIDEBAND



PHASE NOISE, MODEL FE-2185A & MODEL FE-2211A FIGURE 11



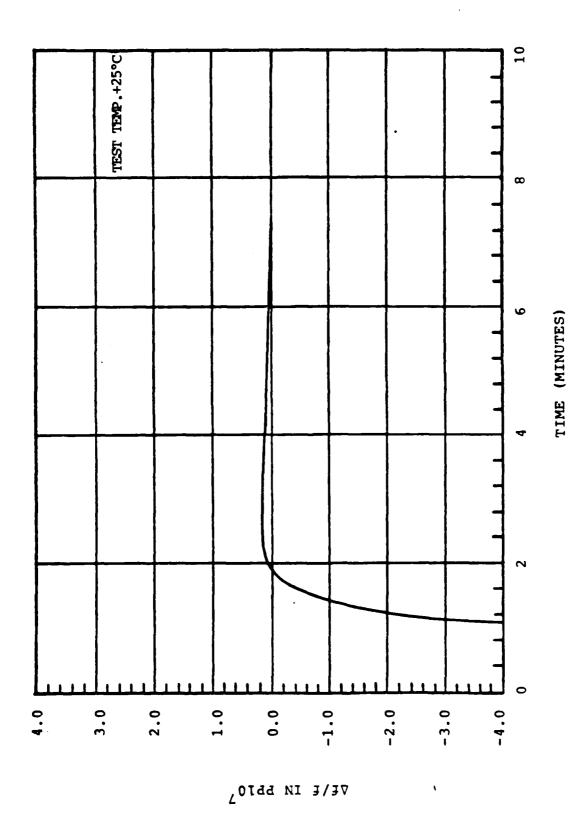


FIGURE 13 WARM-UP TIME - MODEL FE-2211A

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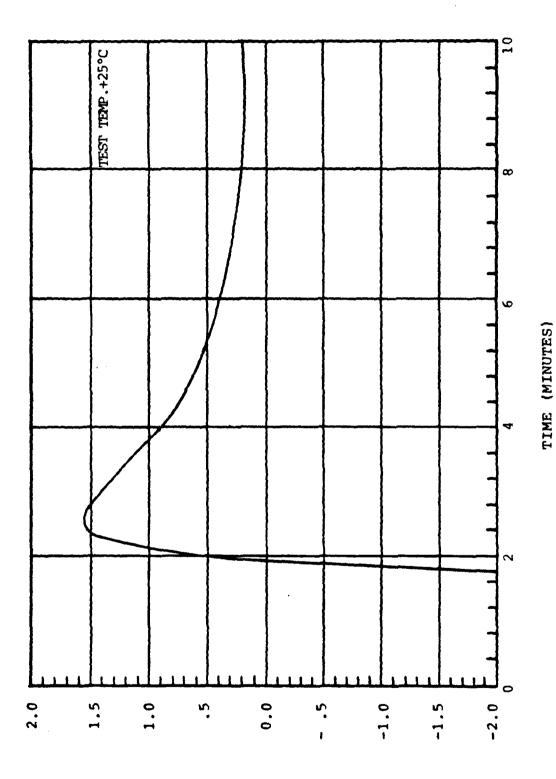


FIGURE 14 WARM-UP TIME - MODULE FE-2211A

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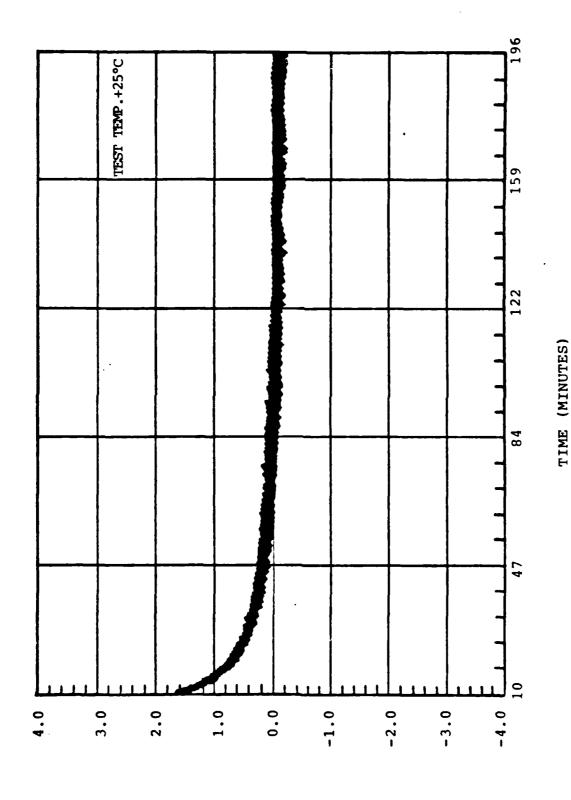
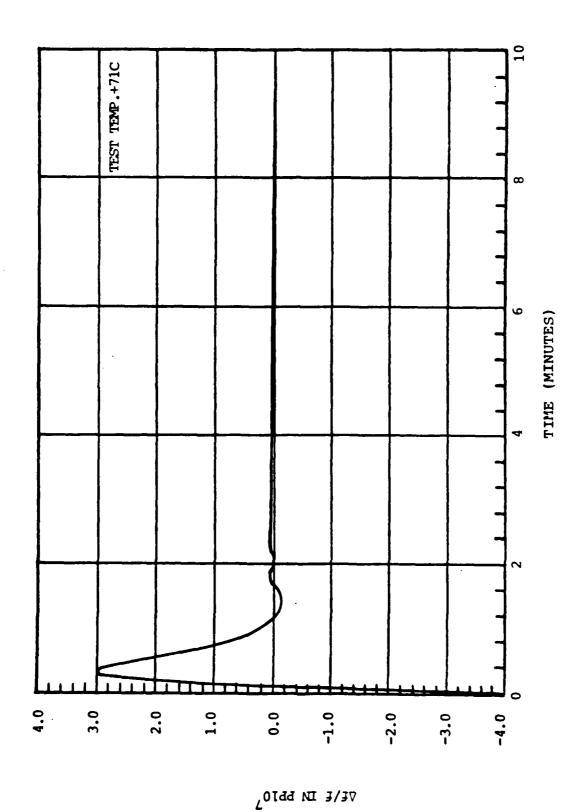
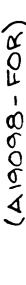


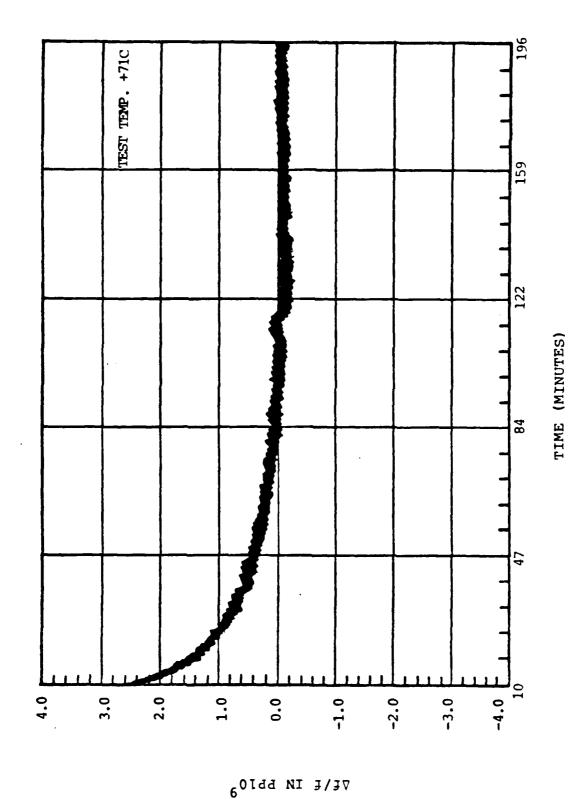
FIGURE 15 WARM-UP TIME MODEL FE-2211A

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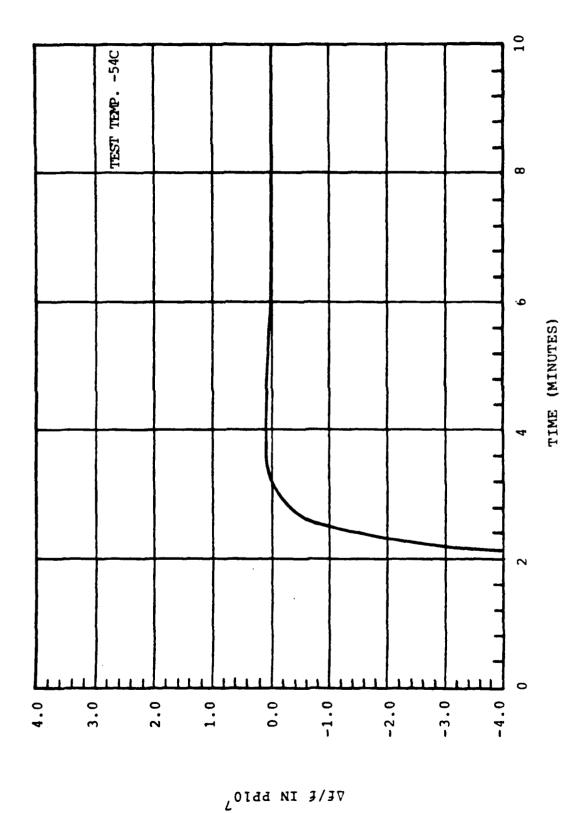


MODEL FE-2211A WARM-UP TIME FIGURE 16





WARM-UP TIME MODEL FE-2211A FIGURE 17



MODEL FE-2211A FIGURE 18 WARM-UP TIME

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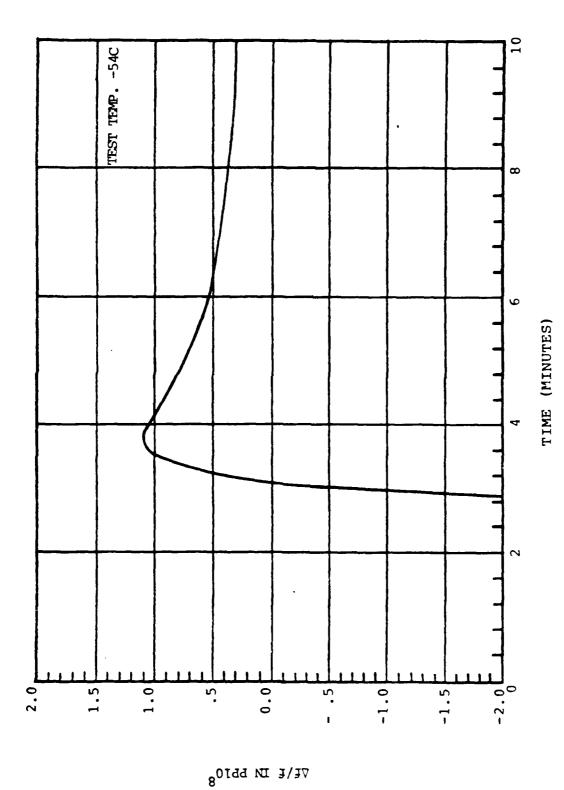


FIGURE 19 WARM-UP TIME MODEL FE-2211A

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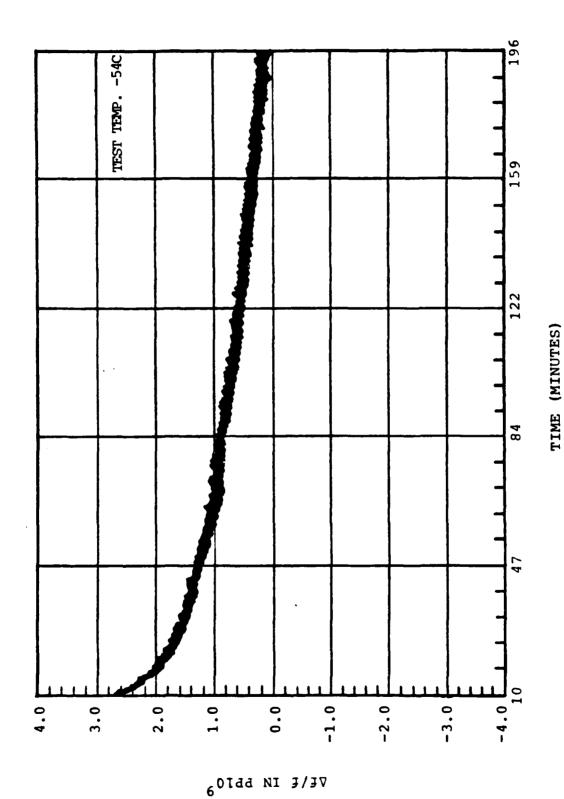
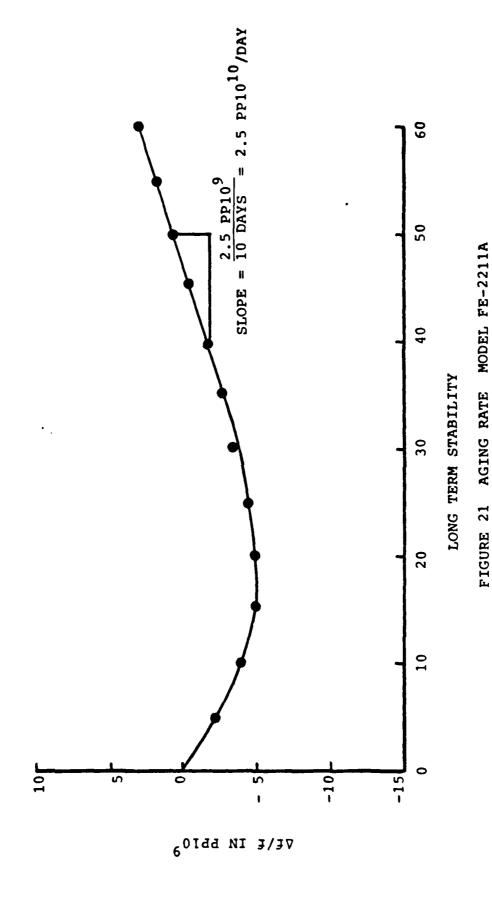


FIGURE 20 WARM-UP TIME MODEL FE-2211A

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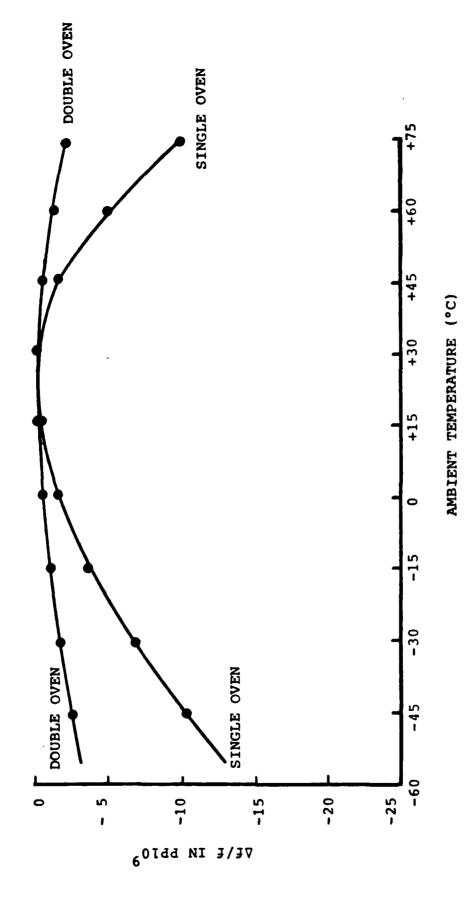


FIGURE 22 TEMPERATURE STABILITY MODEL FE-2211A

MISSION of

Rome Air Development Center

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